

Scientific and Medical
Books, and all objects
of Natural History.
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Philadelphia, Pa.

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With the Compliments of

W. S. W. Ruschenberger

Dec 21 1883

A MEMORY

OF

DR. GEORGE FOX.

[Extracted from the Transactions of the College of Physicians of
Philadelphia, 3d Series, Vol. VII.]



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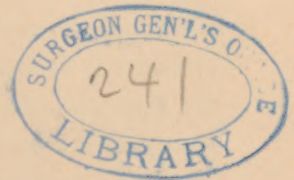
A FELLOW OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF PHILADELPHIA.

Read before the College November 7, 1883,

✓
BY

W. S. W. RUSCHENBERGER, M.D.

[Extracted from the Transactions, 3d Series, Vol. VII.]



PHILADELPHIA:
1883.

COLLINS PRINTING HOUSE,
705 Jayne Street.

MEMORY.

GEORGE Fox, the youngest of the thirteen children of Samuel Mickle Fox and his wife Sarah, was born in a house which stood on the site of the post-office, on the south side of Chestnut Street, east of Fifth St., Philadelphia, May 8th, 1806. His mother was a daughter of Samuel and Mary Pleasant, whose birthright name was Pemberton. Of the thirteen children, four sons and nine daughters, eleven lived to adult age and beyond, and five of them married. Their grandfather Joseph Fox, who, in 1765, was the Speaker of the Colonial Assembly, married a daughter of Samuel Mickle, and had thirteen children. These family names are well known to those acquainted with the social history of Philadelphia about the beginning of this century. They all belong to members of the Society of Orthodox Friends, a sect of Christians who, through the example of their industrious habits, benevolence, moderate and discreet conduct, and unpretentious deportment, have so influenced the manners of citizens generally as to impart

a peculiar tone to the character of Philadelphia, and impose upon it a nickname of Quaker City.

The subject of this notice was a birth-right member of the Society, and during his life, while in the city, was an habitual attendant at its meetings.

This brief of lineage is sufficient to imply that Dr. Fox's ancestry was composed of vigorous, intelligent, and influential persons. He probably inherited their qualities.

His father died in 1808. The guardianship of his children devolved upon their mother, who was left in circumstances which required very strictly economical administration.

Dr. Fox passed through primary schools taught by Mrs. Saul and by Andrew Brown; and when ten years old, he was placed at James Tatham's Cleremont Seminary on Nicetown Lane, and finally transferred to the school of Wylie and Engle in the city, all in their day reputable teachers.

In the autumn of 1822, he entered the Department of Arts of the University of Pennsylvania, and graduated in 1825, with so much credit that he divided the second honor of commencement with his life-long and intimate friend Adolph E. Borie, who became conspicuous as an unwilling member of President Grant's cabinet during about three months.

Thus educationally equipped he began, in 1825, to study medicine, nominally in the office of his brother, Dr. Samuel M. Fox,¹ a graduate of 1822, but in fact under the preceptorship of Dr. Joseph Parrish. The same year he lost his mother.

¹ Dr. Saml. M. Fox retired from the profession, and in 1828 removed to New York, where he became a partner in the mercantile firm of Bolton, Fox, and Livingston. He died there in 1849.

The degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon him by the University of Pennsylvania March, 1828. Colic was the subject of his thesis.

Immediately after graduation he was elected one of the resident physicians of the Pennsylvania Hospital. His colleague during the first year was Dr. James A. Washington, and the second, Dr. Ralph Hammersly, both highly esteemed gentlemen and skilful practitioners.

During the first year of his residence in the Hospital Dr. Fox devised an apparatus for the treatment of fractures of the clavicle. Ten years afterwards, in No. 7 of the Medical Examiner, issued March 28, 1838, page 103, he published a "Description of an apparatus for the treatment of fractures of the clavicle," with a figure. He says: "The apparatus just described was introduced into the practice of the Pennsylvania Hospital in 1828 for the treatment of fractures and dislocations of the clavicle, and, as remarked by Dr. Wallace in his statistical account of Fractures, published in the second number of the Examiner, has since been used to the exclusion of other methods of treatment; its modifications were chiefly made at the suggestion of my friend, Dr. James A. Washington, of New York, then my colleague in that institution."¹

The results of the use of the apparatus have been so generally satisfactory, especially in fractures of the acromial end of the bone, that it has not been superseded. Fox's apparatus has been employed during more than a half century, is still used in the hospital, and is figured and described in most of the recent text-books on surgery. Such long tenure of approbation is evidence of its superiority to

¹ Dr. Washington died in New York, August 30, 1847, æt. 46.

apparatus previously devised for the same purposes, as well as of the inventor's accurate appreciation of the difficulty of maintaining the fragments of a fractured clavicle steadily in their normal position until solidified by the natural process of repair with the least possible inconvenience to the patient. Prior to its introduction into practice many surgeons believed that deformity inevitably follows fracture of the clavicle; with this apparatus perfect cures are effected. Dr. George W. Norris says, in reference to it: "The chief indications in the treatment of fracture of the clavicle are perfectly fulfilled by the use of this apparatus; the pad in the axilla throws the shoulder outwards, at the same time that the drawing up of the elbow by the linen bag throws it upwards and backwards. Besides this, it is simple, requires no bandaging, and leaves the part injured at all times open to inspection. The apparatus, too, can readily be applied in females, in whom it is all important to obviate deformity.¹"

Including his residence in the hospital, Dr. Fox had devoted five years to the study of medicine, and was, for that period, uncommonly well prepared to begin to practise it. The insufficient income of his home had probably made him from the start a diligent student of the healing art, to the practice of which he looked forward for increase of means, as well for the sake of those who were in some degree dependent upon him as for his own. In the spring of 1830, April, then just entering the twenty-fifth year of his life, he established himself at the northwest corner of Sansom and Twelfth streets, in a modest dwelling which he had built while he was a resident of the hospital to be a home for

¹ Page 140, Contributions to Practical Surgery, by George W. Norris, M.D., etc. Lindsay and Blakiston, Philadelphia, 1873.

himself and six unmarried sisters, of whom he had assumed the care since his mother's death. Almost at once he was employed as a general practitioner. He speedily acquired local reputation as a successful oculist, obstetrician, surgeon, and skilful physician. In a short time his practice became large and lucrative. There was a popular notion that he cured his patients.

His contributions to medical literature were few, but interesting, and always characterized by clearness of statement and good sense. The North American Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. xii., contains his first publication, "Relation of a case of labour in a female with deformed pelvis," June 14, 1831. Dr. Charles D. Meigs assisted him. He perforated the child's head with some difficulty. The woman recovered, and when she afterwards needed professional aid under like circumstances she placed herself in the care of Dr. Fox. Her perils were described by him in an interesting paper entitled, "Account of a case in which the Cæsarean Section, performed by Prof. Gibson, was a second time successful in saving both mother and child," which was published in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, No. xliii., May, 1838. The patient stated that she had suffered much less in these operations than when delivered *per vias naturales*.¹

He contributed to the same journal, No. xlix., November, 1839, "Report of cases of Diseases of the Eye, treated in the Wills Hospital during the months of April, May, and June, 1839," and to the issue for April, 1843, a paper entitled "Surgical Cases." Among them is a ligation of the femoral artery for the cure of traumatic aneurism of the anterior tibial, which was successful.

¹ The Medical Examiner, p. 15, vol. i., 1838.

The issue for January, 1849, p. 42, contains "Report of cases treated in the Pennsylvania Hospital. By George Fox, M.D., one of the Surgeons." Among them is an amputation at the shoulder-joint done immediately after serious injury. The patient speedily recovered.

"History of two cases of aneurism treated in the Pennsylvania Hospital. By George Fox, M.D., one of the Surgeons," appeared in the issue of the journal for October, 1849.

The external iliac artery of one patient, who had an inguinal aneurism, was tied, and the common carotid of the other, who suffered from an aneurism in the neck. Both patients were perfectly cured.

He read before the College, April 30, 1833, an account of "A case of pulmonary disease, supposed to be gangrene of the lungs, which ended in recovery;" and April 7, 1846, a "Biographical notice of the late Dr. Joseph Peace."

Dr. Fox was a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia more than a half century. The active part which he took in its affairs led to the construction of the building in which it is established. For this reason reference to his connection with it may include some details, which, though trivial in themselves, may be, nevertheless, worthy the attention of Fellows of the present day.

His admission into the Society was in accordance with a by-law enacted at its organization and still operative at the time.

On the record of proceedings is the following note:—

Gentlemen: Desirous of becoming a member of your body, I beg leave to offer myself a candidate.

Respectfully,

AUGUST 30, 1831.

GEORGE FOX.

He was unanimously elected a Fellow of the College September 27, 1831.

From October 25, 1831, when he was formally introduced and signed the constitution of the Society, Dr. Fox was usually present at the meetings, and soon became much interested in its affairs.

He served on the standing committee on materia medica and pharmacy from October, 1834, till May, 1837, and on that of surgery from the latter date till 1840.

It had been long generally admitted that the College was not satisfactorily accommodated, then meeting in an apartment of the American Philosophical Society, and not likely to be as long as its narrowly limited income required it to occupy a room, eligible on account of low rent rather than its adaptability to the purposes of the Society. It was a common conjecture that the dignity of the College would be enhanced in public estimation, and that its prosperity would be promoted by obtaining for it a permanent home of its own, in which a library and museum could be arranged conveniently for the use of the Fellows. But as opulence is not characteristic either of medical practitioners or of medical institutions, the realization of the idea was rather wished for than expected, and, therefore, a feasible measure to obtain the means necessary to secure it had not yet been devised.

In the autumn of 1840 a proposition was submitted that the College of Physicians, the Medical College of Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Medical Society should join in the formation of the Medical Hall Association of Philadelphia, for the purpose of erecting a building for their common use.

This proposition was not approved of by the College.

On motion of Dr. Fox, November 3, 1840, a committee,

consisting of Drs. Fox, J. Rodman Paul, and D. F. Condie, was appointed "to ascertain what amount would be sufficient to authorize the erection by the College of a building for its accommodation and to solicit contributions from the Fellows."

The report of this committee is not recorded on the minutes.

November 6, 1849, on motion of Dr. Fox, a committee of five was appointed to "ascertain and report to the College the probable cost of a lot and the sum necessary to erect thereon a building suitable for the accommodation of the College, and to suggest a plan for raising the funds estimated to be requisite for the execution of the project."

Drs. George Fox, G. B. Wood, I. Hays, J. R. Paul, and C. D. Meigs were appointed the committee.

At the next meeting, December, 1849, the committee submitted a report, in substance, that a building and site for it would probably cost twenty thousand dollars, and as it was not considered practicable or expedient for the College to involve itself in the proposed enterprise at that time, the creation of a building fund was recommended. It was proposed that the sources of the fund should be certain securities then held by the College, and such contributions to it as might be received from time to time, and that it should be confided to trustees to keep it separate from the money of the society until it should amount to twenty thousand dollars, and then be used exclusively for the purchase of a lot of ground and the erection thereon of a building suitable for the purposes of the College. The appointment of a committee to invite and receive contributions to the fund from the Fellows was also recommended.

In the opinion of Dr. Fox it was essential to the success

of his scheme that contributions received for purchasing a lot and the construction of a building should be vested in a trust created for the purpose in order that contributors might be assured that money given to the building fund could not be diverted to any other object. Otherwise, if the friends of the project were not made confident that it must be realized sooner or later, they might not be willing to give it substantial aid and encouragement.

All the recommendations submitted in the report were adopted.

At an adjourned meeting held January 15, 1850, Drs. George B. Wood, George Fox, and J. Rodman Paul were elected trustees of the building fund; and Drs. George Fox, D. F. Condie, Moreton Stillé, F. West, and George W. Norris were appointed a committee to invite and receive contributions from the Fellows.

The trustees of the building fund reported, January 6, 1851, that the par value of the securities in which the fund was invested, was \$6546.16, and in January, 1859, that their par value somewhat exceeded \$22,000. Although the sum had been acquired for the attainment of which the trust was created, and the trustees had requested that the College should decide upon its appropriation to the purpose intended, as might be considered expedient, it was determined that the fund should further accumulate, and accordingly the trust was extended for five years.

One of the articles of the agreement with Dr. Mütter in reference to the reception of his museum, which was executed January, 1859, stipulates that the College should within five years erect a fire-proof building containing an apartment of sufficient dimensions for the accommodation of the

museum and its probable increase. This stipulation was a motive for accelerating the work.

On the 2d of March, 1859, on motion of Dr. Fox, a committee was appointed to select and purchase a site suitable for the erection of a hall.¹ The committee reported, May 4, that it had purchased the lot at the northeast corner of Locust and Thirteenth streets, 42×110 feet.² This purchase was regarded as most judicious in every respect.

Believing that the disturbed condition of affairs then prevailing in the country was favorable to building cheaply, on motion of Dr. Hays, December 5, 1860, a committee was appointed to procure plans and estimates for a hall.³ A plan and estimates of cost of construction were submitted to the college, May 8, 1861, but the consideration of these was postponed until the meeting of October. Then, in the debate, objection to beginning the work at that time being urged on the ground that builders' estimates are unreliable, and that the fund was yet inadequate, the plans and estimates were laid on the table for further examination, and the committee continued.

At an adjourned meeting, December 18, 1861, the proposed plan of the hall was approved, a building committee appointed,⁴ and instructed to invite proposals for supplying materials and labor requisite to construct the southern part of the

¹ Drs. Fox, Wood, Norris, Paul, and Condie constituted the committee.

² Afterwards, January, 1861, a lot on the east of the lot bought was purchased, making the site of the intended building 60 by 110 feet.

³ The committee appointed consisted of Drs. Hays, Paul, E. Hartshorne, Norris, Fox, and Franklin Bache.

⁴ The building committee consisted of Drs. Hays, E. Hartshorne, Norris, Bache, Wood, Fox, and Paul. The three last named were the trustees of the building fund.

building, which covers an area of 78 by 56 feet. The committee was authorized, February 19, 1862, to contract for the erection of this part, and April 2, for the completion of the whole of the exterior according to the plans which include a space of 110 by 56 feet.

The work proceeded, and was so far advanced that the College met in its permanent home for the first time, March, 1863. The building committee submitted its final report February 2, 1864, in which it is stated that the entire cost of the site and building was \$40,858, all contributed by members of "our hard-worked and inadequately compensated profession; the whole sum furnished from other sources amounting to only about twenty-five hundred dollars."

The inception of this enterprise is clearly ascribable to Dr. Fox. It was borne in his mind from the date of his first motion, November, 1840, till that of the final report of the building committee, a period of more than twenty-three years; and during more than thirteen years, from the date of his second motion, November 6, 1849, he was actively interested in its execution. He alone did not do it. He had able and zealous coadjutors throughout the work; but it is generally conceded that, from first to last, his tact in affairs, financial sagacity, and alert prudence as well as persistence exercised a guiding and helping influence, essential to the accomplishment of the project, which strengthened the foundation of the College and accelerated the growth of its means of utility.

It may be stated in this connection that prior to the completion of its hall the College occupied rented rooms.

From the time of its organization, 1787, the society held its meetings in the hall of the University of Pennsylvania, then on the west side of Fourth Street, south of Arch Street,

until December, 1792, when an apartment in the hall of the American Philosophical Society, No. 104 South Fifth Street, was leased at a rent of twenty dollars a year, which was afterwards increased. The College continued to be a tenant of the American Philosophical Society till August, 1845. Then more convenient accommodation was obtained on the third floor of the building of the Mercantile Library Company at the southeast corner of Fifth and Library streets. The College resolved to move thence June 7, 1854; and held its first meeting July 4, in the Pennsylvania Hospital building, No. 820 Spruce Street, now occupied by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and continued there until March, 1863, when it moved into its new and permanent home.

Dr. Fox was one of the delegates of the College of Physicians to the National Medical Convention which assembled in Philadelphia May 3, 1847. In the course of the session the organization of the body was modified, and its name was changed to the American Medical Association, its declared purpose being to improve the medical education as well as the efficiency and character of physicians. It meets annually, but two successive meetings are not held in the same place. Dr. Fox was often present at the meetings, either as a representative of the College or of the Philadelphia County Medical Society.

About ten years after settling in premises of its own the College perceived that the rate of increase of the library would render the available room in the building inadequate for its accommodation in the course of a few years. Taught by past experience that gathering a considerable sum by numerous gifts in a small community not many members of which are beyond the need of working daily for support is discouragingly tedious, the College, in order to provide

in time for the coming want, appointed, January, 1875, Dr. Fox chairman of a committee¹ "to devise and report upon a plan for the earliest practicable collection of a building fund, and recommend such measures as may be thought desirable for the improvement of the College property." The committee reported, March 3, 1875, in favor of forming a building fund by appropriating to it all entrance fees and any annual surplus that the College can afford, and also by the encouragement of subscriptions, donations and legacies. The report was adopted April 7. Up to this time about one-fifth of the sum required has been obtained. But the urgency for library space fast outgrows the means to supply it.

December 6th, 1882, Dr. Fox was appointed chairman of the Committee on Finance. The committee met on the 8th and 11th, at his residence, to examine the annual account of the treasurer and the estimates of the several committees asking appropriations. Though his bodily vigor was diminished, he heedfully attended to the work, and expressed his opinions in his usual manner.

Dr. Fox had been a Fellow of the College more than fifty-one years when he rendered his last service to it. During the whole period, its prosperity was a matter of concern as well as a source of pleasure to him. He never declined any duty it imposed, or neglected that of any other society or institution with which he was connected.

In January, 1848, he took an active part in the formation of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, and was elected its treasurer April, 1848, and declined re-election

¹ The committee consisted of Drs. Fox, J. R. Paul, L. Rodman, Ellerslie Wallace, and I. Minis Hays.

May, 1852. He was frequently present at its meetings as a representative either of the College of Physicians or of the Philadelphia County Medical Society. He participated in the organization of the latter, December, 1848, and at its first meeting, January 16, 1849, was elected one of its vice-presidents, and held the office till January, 1851.

When Wills Hospital for the indigent blind and lame was opened March 3, 1834, he was elected one of the visiting surgeons. Dr. Isaac Hays, Squire Littell, and Isaac Parrish were his colleagues; they were elected at the same time. Dr. Fox delivered here clinical lectures. After fifteen years' service he resigned his position, August, 1849, carrying with him the respect and best wishes of his colleagues. He was at the same time elected a member of the Board of Managers of the Hospital, and served until 1854, when he resigned.

Dr. Fox was appointed surgeon of the St. Joseph's Female Orphan Asylum in 1838. He served the institution sixteen years, and resigned in 1854.

In May, 1848, he was elected one of the visiting surgeons of the Pennsylvania Hospital. March 27, 1854, he resigned the position after nearly six years' service.

Dr. James J. Levick, resident physician, published reports of the service of Dr. Fox in the surgical wards, for August, September, and October, 1849, in the Medical Examiner of October and December. The aggregate of the two reports is 251 cases discharged and 21 died, a mortality of 8.36 per cent. No other published account of his practice in the hospital has been found. In his first report Dr. Levick described a mattress devised by Dr. Fox for the accommodation of patients under treatment for fracture of the thigh, which, he says, "appears to possess many advantages over

those" previously used in such cases. A wood-cut delineation of the mattress is given in the report.

He was regarded as an efficient but cautious operator. His practice in the hospital was considered very successful. His contemporaries ascribe his success to his zealous attention to the minute details of treatment in every case. He manifested great interest in the welfare of his patients, and often visited the hospital at night to ascertain their condition.

Twenty-five cases of various injuries, received in a riot in the southern part of the city, were brought into the hospital during the night of October 9, 1849. Some were fractures of the skull. Dr. Fox made them the subject of clinical remarks which were so impressive that they are still remembered, and the precepts inculcated are still considered reliable in practice by some of those who heard him. It is not claimed, however, that he was eloquent, but that the practical character of his lessons made them instructive and therefore very acceptable. Dr. Fox sought to do well rather than to talk well. In practice he relied upon a rational application of well-known principles, the results of common experience, and his knowledge of therapeutics which, it is said, was admirable. His clinical teachings were conversational in manner, concise, clear, and in matter practical. By merely sketching only some of their prominent features, students had their attention fixed on the cases before them, and were so much interested that they carefully observed them and learned what was done at every step of their progress. They were thus taught objectively what to do and how to do opportunely for patients under different circumstances and learned the methods of modifying surgical appliances so as to adapt them to the requirements of particular cases or of varying conditions.

His participation in the formation and maintenance of the Friday Evening Medical Club, during many years, belongs to his medical history. It was in existence in 1837, and ceased about 1872. The original members were Drs. Thomas D. Mütter, Francis West, Robert Bridges, George W. Norris, Thomas Stewardson, George Fox, William Pepper, Joseph Carson, Edward Peace, Thomas S. Kirkbride, William W. Gerhard, and Caspar Morris, all Fellows of the College of Physicians, and more or less eminent in the profession. Vacancies in the club were filled by a unanimous vote. The purpose of the organization was to promote friendly intercourse among physicians of the city in an inexpensive and simple manner.

The Club met every Friday evening throughout the cool season of the year—from October till April—and each member of it in turn received his colleagues and a limited number of members of the profession invited to meet them at his residence. The entertainment consisted of tea and coffee with hot cakes, rolls, or biscuits, at the discretion of the host, handed to each of the company, which usually assembled between eight and nine, and dispersed about eleven o'clock. Wine and oysters were added to the bill of fare, and the meetings were held on alternate Friday evenings in 1860-61. At these meetings conversation was not restricted to medical topics. They have been held in pleasant remembrance by many, and no doubt enduring and useful friendships had their beginning at those gatherings, which without their influence might not have been formed.

Dr. Fox was elected a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, May, 1836, and resigned January 25, 1840. He manifested his interest in the Society by a liberal contribution to its building fund in 1875.

In 1850 Dr. Fox was married "in meeting" to Sarah D. Valentine, of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, who, with their six children, four sons and two daughters, survive him.

His domestic condition was happy. He often expressed satisfaction that his labors had enabled him to provide means for the comfort of his family. He was firm and strict in the management of his children, but, nevertheless, very indulgent. He was tenderly loved as a brother, looked up to with affectionate respect, living with and taking care of his sisters until his marriage, and subsequently he resided near them and visited them daily.

A very prosperous professional career during nearly a quarter of a century enabled him to relinquish practice in 1854, still in perfect health, and full vigor of body and mind. He retired to a large farm near Paoli, Chester County, Pennsylvania, where he resided three years, and then moved to his place on the Delaware River above Torresdale. There, except a winter sojourn in the city annually, he passed the remainder of his life.

While in retirement in the country he was not quite released from professional work. Until within the last year or two, from far and near, he was frequently called upon for medical advice, which he gave cheerfully and gratuitously. Often he drove miles to visit some sick country clergyman or poor person who sought his professional care.

Such charitable ministrations and the care of his estate and private affairs occupied his time. In January, 1876, he was elected a director of the National Bank of Commerce, and until the close of his life he discharged the duties of the office punctually, and at the appointed times very carefully examined the condition of the bank's affairs.

More than a quarter of a century has passed since Dr. Fox relinquished the practice of medicine. He should be appreciated in connection with the period of his activity. Only a few years before its close anesthetics were brought into use; he was naturally conservative, and, therefore, perhaps was among those who were opposed to their introduction into the Pennsylvania Hospital. Many instruments are now commonly used to aid diagnosis which were then unknown. Knowledge in every branch of medical science has been more or less increased.

Among his eminent contemporaries in the profession of no better natural endowment than himself were many who were more profoundly versed in medical, scientific, and general learning, more ready with the pen and more fluent in speech, but none who had command of more of the resources of the healing art, or applied them more skillfully than Dr. Fox. He constantly aimed to do the most difficult work in the best way known at the time as the surest and safest for the patient. All his senses that were necessarily employed in observing and discriminating symptoms were well trained, and he was very prompt in reaching a diagnosis and in selecting therapeutic means. In consultation he was highly appreciated on account of his quick and accurate perception, and because he expressed his opinions candidly, and his associates on such occasions were confident that he held nothing in reserve. He was an accomplished general practitioner. Though particularly interested in diseases of the eye, he protested against being called an oculist or an "eye doctor," because he was unwilling to encourage public preference for specialists of any kind.

Anything in the medical or public press in the slightest degree significant of boast or parade of clinical achievement

was shocking to him. His entire freedom from pretension in this sense is seen in the simple titles given to his published papers. In one entitled "Report of cases treated," etc., we have a successful amputation at the shoulder-joint; in another, "Surgical cases," a successful ligation of the femoral artery; and in one called "History of two cases of aneurism treated," etc., we find ligations of the external iliac and of the common carotid arteries, resulting promptly in cure. In his day such grave operations were not as frequent as they are now. His self-respect placed him far above resort to any of those small devices which popularly respected practitioners are sometimes truly charged with employing to create or enlarge a general confidence in their skill, or merely for the sake of that same sort of innocent self-gratification which women are supposed to find in arraying themselves in unusually fine toilets on special occasions.

The general deportment of Dr. Fox truly implied a sincere, frank, cordial, and joyous nature, but being resolute, firm of purpose, a kind of aggressive, abrupt way when opposed, occasionally imparted a harsh tone or roughness to his manner, not at all in harmony with the benevolence and kindness of his disposition. While on duty in the hospital he was generally forbearing to the resident physicians on occasions when he might have justly chided them on account of imperfectly following his directions.

In business he was punctual and very exact, and expected those who dealt with him to be no less so than himself. He had learned the advantages of employing his time and means economically during his working days.

Dr. Fox died Wednesday Dec. 27, 1852, at 40 minutes past five o'clock P. M. in the presence of his loved and loving family. He had been blessed with vigorous health,

an energetic mind, a collegiate education, and more than seventy-six years of life.

By his frank, straightforward conduct through all those years, and by his faithful work he had deservedly won a high reputation as a practitioner of medicine, most respectful consideration in the community, and the grateful remembrance of those whom he had served professionally.

Through his whole life he had many friends. To use his own words uttered only a few days before his last hour, he was "at peace with all and ready to meet his God."

Speaking of Locke and Sydenham, Dr. John Brown aptly said: "It is the lot of the successful medical practitioner, who is more occupied with discerning diseases and curing them, than with discoursing about their essence, and arranging them into systems, who observes and reflects in order to act rather than to speak,—it is the lot of such men to be invaluable when alive, and to be forgotten soon after they are dead; and this not altogether or chiefly from any special ingratitude or injustice on the part of mankind, but from the very nature of the case. Much that made such a man what the community to their highest profit found him to be, dies, must die with him. His inborn gifts, and much of what was most valuable in his experience, were necessarily incommunicable to others, this depending somewhat on his forgetting the process by which, in particular cases, he made up his mind, and its minute successive steps, from his eagerness to possess and put in action the result, and likewise from his being confident in the general soundness of his method, and caring little about formally recording to himself his transient mental conditions, much less announcing them articulately to others;—but mainly, we believe, because no man *can* explain directly to another man *how* he

does any one practical thing, the doing of which he himself has accomplished, not at once, or by imitation, or by teaching, but by repeated personal trials, by missing much, before ultimately hitting."

This imperfect memory may be fittingly closed with the following brief and accurate statement of some of Dr. Fox's characteristic qualities.

"NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE,

PHILADELPHIA, December 30, 1882.

At a stated meeting of the Board of Directors, held this day, upon the President announcing the death of Dr. Fox, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Reed and unanimously adopted, viz.:—

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. George Fox this Board has lost a member whose wise counsels and mature judgment will be missed.

That it hears of the close of his long and useful life with sorrow and regret, and bears testimony to his uniform urbanity, strict integrity, wisdom, and forethought while aiding in the direction of the affairs of this bank.

Further, That this resolution be placed upon the minutes and a copy of the same be sent to the family."



